

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Woodstock Fire District has been awarded \$ 225,929 in federal grant funding to help replace dozens of 30 year old Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units that ensure firefighters have breathable air when entering dangerous environments. The funding is provided through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program (AFG) and is administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The members of the Woodstock Fire District deserve the very best equipment to ensure they remain as safe as possible," said Hinchey. "The Self Contained Breathing Apparatus units the fire district will purchase with this grant will help do just that. I have been and will continue to be a staunch supporter of the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program, because I know how important it is to stand up for those who serve our communities. These everyday heroes put their lives on the line to rescue those in harm's way. This funding will help lessen the risks they face and spare local taxpayers from having to shoulder the entire expense of these units."

Woodstock Fire District Chief Michael Densen said "This is outstanding news. We have been trying for several years and have finally succeeded. This will save the taxpayers of Woodstock a lot of money while enhancing safety for all of the firefighters in the Woodstock District."

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, nearly \$20 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

Hinchey has sponsored a number of workshops across his congressional district to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations. For the most current information regarding the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program, please visit www.firegrantsupport.com.